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In the Claims

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Please amend claims 1, 2, 4 to 6 and 32 to 35 as follows:

A2
1.(Amended) A method of transmitting local area network (LAN) data in an optical transmission network wherein information is transmitted in frames, each frame containing a first plurality of bytes for transmitting payload data and a second plurality of bytes for transmitting overhead data, the method comprising:

allocating in each frame one or more bytes of the second plurality of bytes for LAN data transmissions;

for each LAN data transmission, transmitting frames with LAN data in the one or more allocated bytes until the LAN data transmission is complete.

2.(Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting frames with LAN data in the one or more allocated bytes until the LAN data transmission is complete comprises:

encapsulating LAN data in wide-area network (WAN) frames; and

transmitting frames with the encapsulated LAN data in the one or more allocated bytes until the LAN data transmission is complete.

A3
4.(Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein a LAN device is connected to the first NE and wherein before transmitting frames with LAN data in the one or more allocated bytes until the LAN data transmission is complete, the method further comprises at the LAN device:

generating the LAN data; and

transmitting the LAN data generated to the first NE.

5.(Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein before transmitting frames with LAN data in the one or more allocated bytes until the LAN data transmission is complete, the method further

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comprises at the first NE:

receiving the LAN data transmitted from the LAN device; and

buffering the LAN data received for adapting the rate at which the LAN data is received at the first NE to the rate at which the LAN data received is transmitted to the second NE.

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6.(Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein after transmitting frames with LAN data in the one or more allocated bytes until the LAN data transmission is complete, the method further comprises at the second NE:

receiving the frames transmitted;

extracting the LAN data from each frame received; and

transmitting the LAN data extracted to another LAN device connected to the

second NE.

A4

32.(Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the reallocated portion of the overhead transmission capacity consists of an optical channel.

33.(Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein between the first and second NEs, payload and overhead data is transmitted in frames, each frame containing a first plurality of bytes for transmitting payload data and a second plurality of bytes for transmitting overhead data and wherein the reallocated portion of the overhead transmission capacity consists of one or more bytes of the second plurality of bytes which are reallocated in each frame for LAN data transactions.

34.(Amended) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the LAN interface comprises:

a LAN hub connected to receive LAN data;

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